

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending. Claims 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-6 are amended, and claims 8-10 are added. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

Drawings

The Applicants have not received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review Form PTO-948, indicating whether the formal drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson. Clarification in the next official communication is respectfully requested.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner will note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on June 4, 2003. It is requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the next official communication.

Specification Amendments

The specification is amended herein in order to correct a minor typographical error.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-7 because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, claims 2-6 are amended herein in order to correct the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Claim 7 is canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, claims 1, 3, and 5 are amended herein to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants

regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moon (U.S. 5,388,178);

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al., Japanese Patent 2000000397;

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon, as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Nagayama et al. (Japanese Patent 03179227);

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Koyamoto (Japanese Patent 59148837);

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Graf (UK Patent 2,035,683);

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon and Graf, as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Nagayama; and

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Mochizuki.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 3, and 5

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water temperature sensor, including a water gauge chamber extending along one side of an outer tub of a washing machine; and a hollow chamber cap located at a bottom edge of the water gauge chamber, the temperature measuring part being mounted in a seating portion of the hollow chamber cap.

Further, independent claim 3 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water temperature sensor, including a hollow chamber cap fitting into and thereby closing an opened bottom portion of a water gauge chamber, a hollow space of the hollow chamber cap facing downward, wherein the temperature measuring part is disposed in a recess formed underneath a top surface of the hollow chamber cap, so that the water temperature is measured without directly contacting with water.

In addition, independent claim 5 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water temperature sensor, including a hollow chamber cap located on a bottom edge of a water gauge chamber, wherein a cylindrical probe of the temperature measuring part extends upward from within the

hollow chamber cap through a hole at a center of the hollow chamber cap, thereby directly contacting a washing water in the water gauge chamber after penetrating the hole.

Full support for

- a water gauge chamber extending along one side of an outer tub of a washing machine; and a hollow chamber cap located at a bottom edge of the water gauge chamber, the temperature measuring part being mounted in a seating portion of the hollow chamber cap (as set forth in claim 1),
- a hollow chamber cap fitting into and thereby closing an opened bottom portion of a water gauge chamber, a hollow space of the hollow chamber cap facing downward, wherein the temperature measuring part is disposed in a recess formed underneath a top surface of the hollow chamber cap, so that the water temperature is measured without directly contacting with water (as set forth in claim 3), and
- a hollow chamber cap located on a bottom edge of a water gauge chamber, wherein a cylindrical probe of the temperature measuring part extends upward from within the hollow chamber cap through a hole at a center of the hollow chamber cap, thereby

directly contacting a washing water in the water gauge chamber
after penetrating the hole (as set forth in claim 5)

can be found in the specification, for example, on page 4, lines 19-21,
page 6, lines 2-10, and page 2, line 25 to page 6, line 9. See also FIGS. 1 (a)
and (b), Fig. 2a, and Fig. 3a.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set
forth in independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are not disclosed or made obvious by the
prior art of record, including Moon, Koyamoto, and Graf.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention as set forth in independent
claims 1 and 3, Moon merely teaches a metal bracket 3 mounted into tub 1, and
is silent about a water gauge chamber on one side of the tub. Therefore, the
Applicants respectfully submit that Moon cannot be used to reject claims 1 and 3
under 35 U.S.C §102(b).

Further, since Koyamoto merely teaches housing A mounted on a side wall
of tub 1 without any suggestion of a water gauge chamber, Graf merely teaches
housing 1 without any suggestion of a water gauge chamber, and Mochizuki
merely teaches a cylindrical parts 2 and 4 without any suggestion of a water
gauge chamber, no combination of Moon, Koyamoto, Graf, and Mochizuki can be
used to reject independent claims 1, 3, and 5 of the present invention under 35
U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Moon, Koyamoto, Graf, and Mochizuki, for the reasons explained above.

Further, while the Examiner cites Nagayama et al. combined with Moon to reject claims 2 and 4, and cites Saito et al. to reject claim 7, neither Nagayama et al. nor Saito et al. can be combined with Moon to reject independent claims 1, 3, and 5 of the present invention.

The Examiner will note that claims 8-10 are added herein, and depend from independent claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and arguments, independent claims 1, 3, and 5 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete

response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

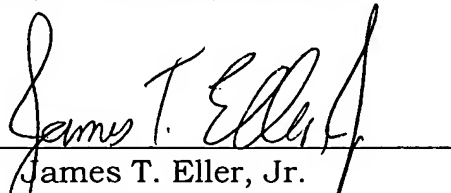
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

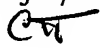
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) month to August 24, 2003 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$110.00 is enclosed herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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3449-0190P
Attachment
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